

Message Text

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10

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

AGR-20 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-20 EB-11 RSR-01 /131 W

----- 040522

R 250505 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE 4247

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMBASSY JAKARTA 3729

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E. O. 11652:

TAGS: EAID, TH

SUBJ: RTG ACTIONS TO REGULATE RICE MARKETING

1. IN RESPONSE TO MOUNTING DOMESTIC RICE PRICES, LENGTHENING QUEUES OF BUYERS AT GOVERNMENT RICE OUTLETS, AND GROWING CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT' S RICE POLICY, RTG HAS TAKEN FOLLOWING STEPS: 1) DECLARED A BAN ON EXPORTS UNTIL FURHTER NOTICE, EXCEPT FOR EXISTING COMMITMENTS; 2) ORDERED RICE TO BE SOLD AT REDUCED AND FIXED PRICES AT AN INCREASE NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED RETAIL OUTLETS; 3) TEMPORARILY FROZEN THE MOVEMENT OF RCIE INTO SOUTH THAILAND AND SEVERELY LIMITED THE MOVEMENT OF RICE IN AREAS PROXIMATE TO THE MALAYSIAN BORDER, AT THE SAME TIME THAT INTENSIFIED MEASURES TO SUPPRESS RICE SMUGGLING HAVE BEEN ORDERED.

2. COMMENT: CONTINUING PROBLEM REMAINS OF DISPARITY BETWEEN HIGH EXPORT DEMAND AND DESIRE FOR LOW DOMESTICE RETAIL PRICES FOR RICE. MOREOVER, RTG SEEKING SIMULTANEOUSLY

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TO RIDE TWO HORSES OF BETTER RICE PRICES FOR FARMERS AND
TOLERABLE PRICES TO CONSUMERS, MOST OF WHOM ARE LOW INCOME.
HOEVER, THE MEASURE TAKEN SHOULD BRING TEMPORARY RESPITE
TO RTG FROM MOUNTING PUBLIC DISSATISFACTION OVER RICE PRICES,
AT LEAST UNTIL THE RETURNS FROM THE SECOND CROP CAN BE
VERIFIED AROUND MID- JULY.
MASTERS

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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KUALA LUMPUR
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